

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 01416 01 OF 02 251627Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----006832 251701Z /43

R 251615Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5172
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USELM LIVE OAK
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01416

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG, AKB
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GDR RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO
EAST BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 8 (NOTAL)
(B) BERLIN 1
(C) 77 BERLIN 9473
(D) 77 STATE 310940
(E) 77 BONN 21593
(F) 77 BERLIN 9391 (NOTAL)

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 01416 01 OF 02 251627Z

(G) 77 BERLIN 9234 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A WRAP-UP BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF
YEAR-END CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON POSSIBLE GDR RESTRIC-
TIONS OF ALLIED ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN, THE US AND
FRENCH REPS REPORTED APPROVAL FROM CAPITALS FOR THE AD
REF AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE DECEMBER 30 BONN GROUP

MEETING (REF E). THE UK REP SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH LONDON HAD EXPRESSED GENERAL APPROVAL FOR THE SCENARIO, IT HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE TEXTS OF THE PROTEST AND PRESS GUIDANCE. LONDON BELIEVES THAT THE POLADS IN BERLIN HAVE THE NECESSARY DISCRETION TO MAKE A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO ANY STEPS THE GDR MIGHT TAKE. IT THEREFORE FEELS THAT "CONTINGENCY PLANNING HAS GONE AS FAR AS IT CAN USEFULLY GO." END SUMMARY

1. AT THE JANUARY 4 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE US REP REPORTED THAT THE CHECKPOINT CROSSINGS UNDERTAKEN BY EMBASSY BERLIN HAD EXPERIENCED NO DIFFICULTIES (REF B). HE ALSO PROVIDED THE INFORMATION IN REF D CONCERNING DISCUSSIONS OF INTRA-BERLIN TRAVEL DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR ON ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE GDR'S 1974 CIRCULAR NOTE TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS (REF C), THE UK REP (EYERS) SAID THAT THE PHRASE "MITGLIEDER DES PERSONALS" MAY MEAN THAT THE NOTE APPLIES ONLY TO NON-DIPLOMATIC MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFFS, NOT TO DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL.

2. THE FRENCH REP (RICHARD) CONFIRMED THAT THE FRENCH MISSION'S NEW YEAR'S PROBE IN BERLIN HAD ALSO BEEN WITHOUT INCIDENT (REF A). HE REPORTED THAT PARIS HAD APPROVED THE SCENARIO DEVELOPED BY THE BONN GROUP AT THE DECEMBER 30 MEETING.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 01416 01 OF 02 251627Z

3. THE UK LEGAL ADVISER (EATON) SAID THAT LONDON HAD APPROVED THE GENERAL LINE RECOMMENDED BY THE BONN GROUP, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DENIAL IN THE EVENT THE GDR IMPOSED A REQUIREMENT FOR VISAS AND PASSPORTS (REF E, PARA 6), BELIEVING THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE IN THE WAY OF IMMEDIATE REACTIONS WHICH WOULD PREJUDICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE. LONDON HAD RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE TEXTS OF THE PROTEST AND PRESS GUIDANCE ON WHICH THE BONN GROUP HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT; IN MOST CASES THE LANGUAGE SHOULD BE LESS STRONG. LONDON WAS ESPECIALLY FIRM ABOUT THE NEED TO REVIEW ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE GDR BEFORE AGREEING TO PROTESTS IN CAPITALS. IN ANY EVENT, LONDON FELT THAT THE POLADS IN BERLIN HAD THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO TAKE PRELIMINARY STEPS IN RESPONSE TO ANY CHANGES THE GDR MIGHT INSTITUTE. SUMMING IT UP, EYERS SAID THAT LONDON CONSIDERED THAT "CONTINGENCY PLANNING HAS NOW GONE AS FAR AS IT CAN USEFULLY GO."

4. AT THE JANUARY 18 BONN GROUP MEETING, EYERS SAID HE WANTED TO CORRECT SOME REPORTS THAT WEST BERLIN

CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAD BEEN CHECKING BRITISH EMBASSY

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PAGE 01 BONN 01416 02 OF 02 251624Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----006733 251701Z /43

R 251615Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5173
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USELM LIVE OAK
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01416

EXDIS

VEHICLES CROSSING THE SECTOR BOUNDARY INTO WEST BERLIN (REFS F AND G). THEY WERE NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE. THERE HAD BEEN AT MOST TWO CASES, ALTHOUGH IN ONE INSTANCE A CUSTOMS OFFICIAL HAD SEARCHED AN EMBASSY VEHICLE WHOSE OCCUPANT SHOWED A BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT CARD. THIS HAD BEEN REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE HEAD OF CUSTOMS IN WEST BERLIN, WHO APOLOGIZED FOR THE INCIDENT. EYERS SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD CUSTOMS CONTROLS HAD BEEN IN EFFECT AT THE BOUNDARY FOR SOME TIME. THE RATIONALE FOR IT WAS THAT THE CROSSING CONSTITUTED ENTRY INTO THE WEST GERMAN CUSTOMS AREA.

5. THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) REPORTED THAT THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR HAD COMPLAINED TO THE SENAT ABOUT AN "UNFRIENDLY" CHECK OF HIS VEHICLE BY WEST BERLIN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS DURING A RETURN TRIP
SECRET

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PAGE 02 BONN 01416 02 OF 02 251624Z

TO EAST BERLIN. VON BRAUNMUEHL ASKED WHERE SUCH COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE REFERRED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE -- TO THE SENAT, THE FRG OR THE ALLIES.

6. EYERS RESPONDED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE FROM THE FRG MINISTRY OF FINANCE, THEY ARE SUB-ORDINATE TO THE BERLIN SENATOR FOR FINANCE. ANY COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO THAT OFFICE FIRST. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR DID NOT ENJOY THE SAME STATUS IN SUCH MATTERS AS ALLIED DIPLOMATS IN EAST BERLIN.
STOESSEL

SECRET

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